

The Southern League.

CRYSTAL PALACE v. LUTON.

Played at the Palace on Saturday. Result:

Luton	3 goals.
Crystal Palace	1 goal.

Teams:—

Crystal Palace—Johnson; Collyer and Bulcock; Spottiswood, Hughes, and Hanger; Garratt, Young Williams, Payne, and Woodger.

Luton—Jarvis; Chapman and Potts; F. Hawkes, Jones, and Johnson; Brown, Quinn, Smith, Moody, and Stansfield.

Referee, Mr. J. T. Howercroft (Belton).

Luton accomplished an unexpected performance at the Crystal Palace on Saturday, when they won by 3 goals to 1. It cannot be said that Luton deserved the points on the run of the play, but they are to be congratulated on taking advantage of their opportunities. The Palace forwards did quite two-thirds of the attacking, but they were never happy in front of goal, and Garratt was the only man in the line who did himself anything like justice. The other forwards included Woodger, but except for an occasional turn of exceptional speed, he was quite an ordinary player.

R. Hawkes was absent from the Luton team, as he was playing in the amateur international at Park Royal. His place was taken by Johnson, who had every reason to be satisfied with himself, for in addition to playing well, he led to Luton's second goal being scored. He placed the ball across, and with Bulcock out of position, Smith easily converted Brown's centre.

There were some five or six thousand spectators, who were more or less lost on the wide banks around the historic pitch. Although the weather was fine and the ground was in good condition, the game was by no means a great one. While Luton are to be commended for winning, it must be said that the Palace had only themselves to blame. Notwithstanding the large share they had of the game, it cannot be said that Jarvis saved a shot which really deserved to score.

Fred Hawkes won the toss, and the Palace were first to get down, but the attack was repulsed. Then the Luton right wing made the running, and a miskick by Collyer looked dangerous, but the defence cleared. At the other end a centre from Garratt went over the goal. A fine centre by Brown was punched out by Johnson, and almost immediately Jarvis rushed out and cleared. A corner for the Palace quickly followed, but it was placed behind.

Good play by Woodger led to an attack by the Palace, but Fred Hawkes cleared, and a little later Jones headed out a centre from Garratt, who followed this up by forcing a corner off Potts. From this Williams headed on to the post, and Jarvis saved a long shot from Collyer. Up to now play had been mostly in favour of the Palace, but neither side were exerting themselves unduly.

After good play on the Luton left, Garratt got the better of Potts and put across. Woodger obtained possession and tested Jarvis with a fast ground shot. Once more Garratt proved too good for Potts, but Johnson came to the rescue. All the Luton forwards took part in the movement which followed, and a miskick by Quinn caused Fred Hawkes to take a shot. He was outside the penalty area, but he beat the Palace goalkeeper with a high shot. This happened less than a quarter of an hour after the start.

Another run on the Palace finished with a centre which was cleared, and midfield play followed. Receiving a pass forward, Williams ran in and scored with a hard shot. Almost a similar burst was made immediately afterwards, but this time Jarvis cleared. A corner for Luton followed, but it came to nothing. The Palace were soon on the aggressive again, and Jarvis met a centre from Garratt.

A nice pass out by Smith to Brown was returned, and a corner followed. From this Moody headed, and the goalkeeper saved just as Smith reached him. A fast run by Woodger led to a shot which Jarvis negotiated almost under the bar. Then a run was made by Luton, and from Moody's pass Smith shot over.

Luton again took the lead after half-an-hour's play. Following a throw-in, Johnson put well across, and Quinn, who was hardly prepared for the opportunity, passed out to Brown. The latter player promptly centred, and Smith netted from short range. Shortly afterwards a corner for the Palace was well taken by Woodger, but Jarvis fisted out over the heads of a group of players.

When the Palace came again Garratt had a splendid chance, the ball coming to him in a good position, but he shot over. The Luton right wing next set the pace, but Moody was given offside when he seemed likely to break through. Play was stopped for a minute owing to an injury to Johnson, who was able to resume without the attention of the trainer. Nothing else of note happened before the interval when the players left the field with Luton leading by 2 goals to 1—a verdict that was hardly deserved on the run of the play.

Directly after the resumption the Palace attacked and forced a corner, which was cleared. A fast ground shot from Payne almost beat Jarvis, but he gathered the ball as it bounced off the ground. A free kick for a foul by Chapman on Woodger near the Luton goal looked dangerous, but Potts got in a strong kick. Luton quickly forced a corner and Jones headed over. A combined run by the Luton forwards ended in what Moody intended for a pass to Smith, but the Palace goalkeeper intercepted it and cleared.

A fast run on the Palace right looked promising, but Johnson partially stopped the movement. Potts brought down Williams, and cries for a penalty were unheeded by the referee. Woodger almost got clean away, but Potts rushed across and prevented him from centring so soon as he would have done, with the result that none of the inside men were sufficiently well placed when the ball came across.

The Luton backs seemed to be completely beaten some thirty yards from goal, but Johnson handled, and the resultant free kick was cleared. A good centre from Garratt led to a prolonged attack on the Luton goal, and it

was only concluded by Hughes sending wide. The same player got in a clever overhead kick, but Jarvis had plenty of time to save. During the quarter of an hour which had elapsed since the interval the Palace had had nearly all the play, but they rarely got past the Luton backs.

Williams had a fine chance after eluding two or three Luton players, but he finished up by sending wide very weakly. At length the Palace goalkeeper was called upon to save two long shots, but neither of them caused him any anxiety. A square centre by Woodger was met by Potts' head, and Fred Hawkes relieved. Then Hughes obtained possession about thirty yards out and shot hard. The ball rose a few inches too high, but this was decidedly the best attempt since half-time. Woodger almost broke through in the centre, but Chapman got in the way and turned round with the ball.

A long shot from Brown was easily saved by the goalkeeper. Brown initiated another attempt and put across to Stansfield. His centre was met by Smith, and the goalkeeper attempting to get at the ball, the centre-forward passed to Quinn who breasted through. This happened half-an-hour after the interval. The spectators, having nothing else to do, applauded the referee when he gave decisions in favour of the Palace, but there was nothing to complain about in the conduct of Mr. Howcroft.

Time after time, when the Palace forwards got near the Luton goal, they indulged in aimless passing when they should have shot. Luton set them an example in this respect, for they were always ready to take advantage of the slightest opportunity. On one occasion Stansfield came near to scoring, but his shot was a trifle too high. Towards the finish there was very little incident in the game, and any alteration of the score seemed to be unlikely.

In the last few minutes Williams had a fine opportunity, but shot over. The last incident of the game was a run by Moody, who transferred to Brown. That player tried a low shot which the goalkeeper saved. At the finish Luton were still leading by 3 goals to nil, a result that was brought about by the smartness of the forwards, of whom Brown was the pick. Quinn and Smith were also in fine form, but the left wing was rather off colour.

No fault could be found with the halves. Jones was always there when wanted, and the other two did all that was required of them. The backs, although they got in few long kicks, disconcerted the Palace forwards with bustling tactics, and to them a large share of the credit is due. Considering the amount of attacking that was done by the Palace, Jarvis had a remarkably easy task, but he did his little well.